runaway inflation and the unemployment.

And Mr. Volcker came in to stop the inflation by raising interest rates, and he raised interest rates to 21.5 percent. He put a hammer on the entire economy of the United States. Businesses went under, the real estate industry went under. My business, we had $11 million in pending sales in real estate, we were only able to close on $1 million. We had to put 10 or 11 people out of work because you couldn't buy anything with interest rates being at 21.5 percent.

So what happened is the American people elected a man named Ronald Reagan, who came in and he said America could do better and would do better. And the way to do it was to give the American people some of their money back so they could spend it to buy things that they needed, thereby creating products, thereby creating jobs, and thereby helping economic growth. And within about 3 years, the economy turned around, and we had one of the largest and longest periods of economic growth in the last 100 years. And it was because we cut taxes for business, we cut taxes for individuals, and we stimulated economic growth.

Now we're heading down that path that we headed on down in the 1970s. Today we added $825 billion to the deficit. We had a $700 billion bailout for the banks and Wall Street not too long ago added to the deficit. The total in the last month or so added in spending was $1.539 trillion, and CBO says it's more than that. This is only going to cause more problems down the road. It's not, in my opinion, going to solve the problem of joblessness. It's going to add to the necessity for more spending.

This isn't the end of spending. This was asked on television I think earlier today: Is this going to solve the problem; is this the end of additional spending? It will not be. There are going to be trillions more added to the request for spending in the not-too-distant future. The President, the Vice President, and his chief economic advisor said that we're going to need more, that this was a good step first—a good first step, $1.5 trillion?

We're going to have more, and it's going to cause more economic problems down the road in the form of higher inflation, thereby, higher prices; and we're going to end up with somebody coming in to try to do something about the inflation, like Mr. Volcker did before, to put the hammer on it by raising interest rates, which will put a real hammer again on the economy of this country.

We're not solving these problems. We're not solving the problems of joblessness. We're not going to create new jobs with this plan we just passed today. We're going to create more government, not less. We're going to move this government toward socialism and away from the free enterprise system.

And the kids that are growing up today are going to be saddled with our debt. They're going to pay for it with higher taxes, higher spending down the road, inflation, and a lower standard of living. And this is something that we need not do.

There is still time to reverse this by realizing that the way to stimulate economic growth is by cutting taxes, not increasing spending, by cutting spending, not increasing spending. And if we do that, we will put this country on the road to economic recovery, which is the right approach. Not more government spending, not trillions more; that's only going to exacerbate the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, the week has ended. We've spent all this money, we haven't solved the problem, and we're going to continue down the road we're on. I hope my colleagues, before it's too late, will realize free enterprise and lower taxes and less spending is the way to solve this problem, not socialism, more government, and more taxes.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Budget:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 26, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Office of the Speaker, H–232, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: With my recent appointment to the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, I resign, effective immediately, from the House Committee on the Budget. It has been both a privilege and an honor to serve on this committee for the last four years representing the people of Texas and our great Nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SECRETARY OF TREASURY GEITHNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives voted last week, disapproving of the release of the second tranche of Wall Street bailout—called TARP moneys—to the U.S. Treasury. I disapproved, along with a majority of our colleagues here, on sending more money over there. Of course our vote made no difference.

It is really amazing how this unusual procedure was adopted in the original bill passed last year that basically took away our rights as Members of this House. So the money was released to Treasury, and what happens over there becomes more troubling every day.

Now, the Senate basically gave the newly named Secretary of Treasury a pass, even though Mr. Geithner failed to pay his taxes. He didn't fail to pay $100 or $200 or $10,000 or $20,000—I think it was well over $34,000, and he's the person now responsible for overseeing the Internal Revenue Service and the entire bailout.

In addition, as the administration seeks to reduce the influence of lobbyists, as the Secretary issues statements on reducing the influence of lobbyists on Treasury policy and directing TARP funds, how could he then, as Secretary of Treasury, hire a lobbyist—a lobbyist who had been hired by Goldman Sachs—and put that lobbyist as his Chief of Staff? In case you really didn't know it, Goldman Sachs used to be one of those Wall Street gambling houses that lost all of their investors' money. And then, when they got in trouble, they did something very clever; overnight they became a bank holding company, which means they came under the protections of the insurance fund that other banks that had been responsibly managed had paid into for decades. But they were powerful enough to ride right over them and to land themselves there, and then put their hand out for $10 billion of bailout money. Now that's a real clever score.

Now, we can be pretty certain that Treasury's Chief of Staff will welcome his old friends and colleagues to the Treasury as the bailout funds and other banking issues come up. Wouldn't surprise me at all. But isn't that what President Obama is really trying to prevent?

On top of this, Secretary Geithner received nearly a half a million dollars—half a million dollars—in severance from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York when he left.

Now, we know that the New York Fed and the Treasury are very connected—it's like an umbilical cord tying the two together—and they just circulate their people up and down between New York and Washington, and then the people of the other States have to pay for the wrongdoing they get into about every 10, 15 years or so. USA Today reports the Government Accountability Office has questioned Treasury's policies in a December report, saying the Department didn't have a plan to monitor conflicts of interest. Of course they say they will work to address this, but can we be sure that conflicts of interest have been scrubbed clean? No, of course not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.